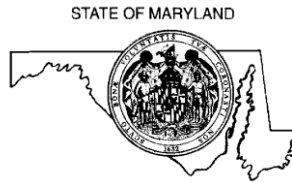


Marilyn Moon, Ph.D.
CHAIR



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MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Thursday, January 3, 2008

Minutes

Chair Moon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. by teleconference.

Commissioners present by teleconference: Conway, Falcone, Jefferson, Krumm, Olsen, Ontaneda-Bernales, Petty, Pollak, Sensabaugh, Todd

ITEM 1.

Study of Chronic Care Management and Wellness Promotion

Dr. Cowdry said that Delegate Peter Hammen, Chairman of the House Health and Government Operations Committee and Delegate James Hubbard asked the Commission to conduct a study of chronic care management and wellness promotion as strategies for improving health care delivery and reducing overall health care costs. This has not been solely a project of the Commission: the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene made substantial contributions to the sections of this report dealing with the costs of chronic disease and with Medicaid disease management programs. The principal research and initial drafting of the report was performed by the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park under the direction of Assistant Professor Judith A. Shinogle.

Commissioner Barbara McLean was not available to participate in the conference, however, through written comments, suggested that the report be modified to include the limited data available about the impact of such programs in the small group market. Commission staff agreed to the need for this change. Discussion then turned to the implications of the report and the ways in which it was related to the Commission's work in implementing the Small Employer Health Benefit Plan Premium Subsidy Program that came out of the 2007 Special Session. It was agreed that Staff would include information about existing legislation and add an additional recommendation to bring Maryland's laws regarding incentives for participation in a wellness program more in line with federal law. HIPAA allows an incentive to be based on achieving an outcome and includes protections for individuals who may not be able to achieve a certain health-related outcome. It was agreed that upon making these changes, the report would be released to the General Assembly.

ITEM 2.

Health Policy Options Report

Dr. Cowdry and Nicole Stallings discussed the Health Policy Options Report, which the Commissioners were briefed on at the December 20th public meeting. After some discussion, Commissioners asked Dr. Cowdry how they could assist the various Centers and it was agreed that a Commission Retreat would be set up in the spring, upon the conclusion of the legislative session. The Commissioners then approved the release of the Health Policy Options Report to the General Assembly. Dr. Moon commented on the uses and limitations of modeling in guiding public policy decisions.

ITEM 3.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the teleconference call was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.